

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 3-5 with the following replacement paragraph, marked-up to show changes relative to the original:

Examples of materials appropriate for the one-piece shim member as contemplated include metallic materials such as, without limitation, stainless steel, a nickel-chromium-based alloy (such as an ~~Inconel~~-INCONEL[®] alloy from Special Metals Corp. of Huntington, WV), titanium, molybdenum, tantalum, and tungsten.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 12-16 with the following replacement paragraph, marked-up to show changes relative to the original:

The metallic material used to make annular shim member 600 must, as mentioned above, be able to withstand temperatures of up to about 1100°C, and preferably (to provide a safety factor) up to about 1200°C to 1400°C. Stainless steel, a nickel-chromium-based alloy (e.g., an ~~Inconel~~-INCONEL[®] alloy), titanium, molybdenum, tantalum, and tungsten are all appropriate examples of suitable metallic materials.

Please add the following paragraph at page 8, following line 16:

The metallic material can be a refractory material.